(b) if so, the number of such refugees who entered India from Burma and the treatment and status given to them; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard and the concrete positive steps taken to save democratic process in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have consistently supported the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar and have expressed the hope that the Myanmar Government will transfer power to the elected representatives without delay. Government have also urged the Myanmar authorities to release all political prisoners.

Tension between India and Pakistan

3329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to USA he conveyed to the US Government that tension between India and Pakistan will continue and had not de-escalated because Pakistan continue to interfere in Indai's internal affairs;

(b) if so, what was the US Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether they have agreed to impress upon the Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) US has also repeatedly stressed support for a bilateral solution of the Kashmir problem peacefully in the spirit of the Simla accord.

Ban on Sale of Loss Making Ships

3330. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to permit the shipping companies to sell their loss making ships if so, the reason for the same;

(b) whether these shipping companies are forced to ply these ships despite unremunerative freight rates through loss mounted;

(c) whether Government are insisting that those ships which have not completed their economic life should not be allowed to be sold abroad as it would mean a loss of tonnage; and

(d) the number of such ships allowed by Government to be sold?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government have issued revised guidelines in November, 1989 regarding sale of ships abroad which have not completed their economic life. These guidelines are reproduced below:—

"In such a case when the vessel has not completed its stipulated age norms and proposal is for sale of vessel to foreign investor, the Director General of Shipping would examine whether the Indian Shipping company can run the vessel economically or not. In case it is found that the company is not able to operate the vessel on economic basis for reasons beyond its control (uneconomic operation, changed pattern of trade non-availability of adequate business, unusual wear and tear of the vessel, etc.), it would normally be permitted to sell the vessel subject to the following conditions:—

(i) the sale of the vessel would result in the entire foreign exchange outstanding on the purchase being fully recovered, concomitently, where the ship has been

acquired without Government assistance, the company may be allowed to sell such ship as per its commercial judgement;

(ii) Director General of Shipping/ Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India is satisfied about the reasonableness of the price;

(iii) the sale proceeds after meeting outstanding liabilities of Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India/Government/ Financial institutions, etc. are kept in a separate account for shipowner to be used only for acquisition of further ships.

(d) During the last one year, Government accorded permission for 4 such ships to be sold.

Property Tax Bills in Respect of DDA Flats in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

3331. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA flats in Vasant Kunj area particularly in Sector-D have been allotted and occupied since 1988 but the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has not so far assessed their rateable value and issued property tax bills;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to expedite the assessment; and

(d) if so, by when the property tax bills would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Property tax notices regarding properties completed or occupied after 1.4.1988 have not been issued so far. However, the tax-payers were permitted to pay taxes according to their self-assessment. The process of issue of notices for assessment of these properties shall be completed before 31st March, 1991.

Passport Office in Goa

3332. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present Passport Office in Goa is inadequate and that there is a demand for larger centrally located space for its offices; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to shift this office to the new premises and the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Negotiations for hiring alternative accommodation near the existing permises are under way.

त्रिपुरा में धर्म-परिवर्तन कराकर ईसाई बनाया जाना

3333. श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 6 जून, 1990 के दैनिक "हिन्दू" में "कनवर्शन टू क्रिश्चेनिटी राइजिंग इन त्रिपुरा" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या न्यूजीलैंड बैपटिस्ट मिशन सोसाइटी ने गत छः वर्षों के दौरान बहुत बड़ी संख्या में आदिवासियों का धर्म-परिवर्तन किया है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि मुख्यतः धर्म-परिवर्तन आदिवासियों को विभिन्न प्रलोभन देकर कराये गये थे ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस सोसाइटी को गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान विदेशों से वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त हुई है; यदि हां, तो इस सोसाइटी को गत तीन वर्ष के दौरान विदेशों से कितनी धनराशि प्राप्त हुई है?